

attitude of our delegation can be attributed, in part at least, to the following facts:

1. In Georgia, there has been no concerted effort to educate the public as to the merits of an Area Redevelopment Act which contains equal benefits to the rural-small urban areas. Although assistance is needed desperately, in many of our rural-small urban counties, due to lack of leadership in pushing the program, very few Georgians understand how an Area Redevelopment Act, patterned after the full provisions of S. 722, would benefit the State.

2. Those elements within Georgia who, naturally, oppose most programs requiring expenditures of Federal funds are the only people who have let our congressional delegation hear from them regarding the Area Redevelopment Act.

3. Concern as to how administration of the act will be carried out. This concern, we believe, is based on a strong feeling that eligibility criteria within the act should be clearly defined to guarantee equal consideration for the rural-small urban areas, as for any other area.

STATEMENT OF POSITION

1. We believe that any economically distressed area of the Nation adversely affects the economy of every other area, and the country as a whole.

2. Part of the problem of dealing with possible or existing economic decline is to assist, or stimulate, the large industrial areas of the Nation which shows serious symptoms of distress.

3. Of equal importance is to deal with the problems of economic decay as they may exist throughout the rural areas of the Nation. Otherwise, there will continue the alarming out migration from the rural-small urban areas which is causing a mounting problem in providing adequate local, State, and Federal governmental services to meet the explosive swell of urban population. This is true especially in the areas of welfare, housing, juvenile delinquency, and other social services which do not assume such distressing proportions in rural areas, during low periods of economic fluctuation.

Any program which will stimulate or advance the economy of the rural-small urban distressed areas of the Nation will improve the total national purchasing power, an influence which will be favorably reflected over the entire country.

4. We believe a proper Area Redevelopment Act, which will take into equal account the problems of economic decline as they may exist, or occur, in major industrial and rural-small urban areas, will be good for the entire Nation.

5. If the Area Redevelopment Act is so drawn as to guarantee equal consideration between the major industrial areas and rural-small urban areas showing economic distress, we will make a major effort to sell the act to the general public of our State and, through them, to our congressional delegation.

GENERAL CONDITION OF GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

Although the per capita income in Georgia has increased materially in recent years, the attached chart clearly shows that our State is not gaining on the national average. This failure to close the gap is resulting in serious out migration of many of our people who are being attracted to greener pastures. This is causing a serious problem, not only in the areas losing population but for the areas to which this explosive migration is flowing.

Georgia's agricultural economy, while increasing in total production, dollar-wise, is not providing enough net profit to the farmer to seriously raise the agricultural per capita income, as compared to the national average. Due to the changing pattern of agriculture in Georgia, we are losing an average of 20,000 farm jobs, annually. Today, agriculture ranks fourth in our State, in terms of employment. This condition has resulted in a decline in population in 96 of Georgia's 159 counties, between 1950 and 1960.

A total of 68 of our counties actually lost manufacturing employment during the period 1947 through 1958. Also, 19 additional counties each had a manufacturing gain of less than 100 workers during the same period with the annual average ranging from less than 1 to less than 9 per year.

In Georgia, we are initiating programs to deal with the serious economic problems existing in the rural-small urban areas. An attached report on "Project Progress" reflects part of this effort.